

CONGRATULATING TONY STEWART

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fellow Columbus, Indiana native Tony Stewart, not only for winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship this year, but also for consistency and determination to finish each race.

Before winning the 2002 Nextel Cup, Stewart declared, "If we're going to win the championship, then we need to have consistency . . . winning helps too, but consistency—front-running consistency is what it's all about."

Tony's racing legacy began at age seven, Tony started his career like many young aspiring auto racing drivers: behind the wheel of a go-kart. In 1983, when Tony was 12, he won his first championship.

In 1989, Stewart moved from go-karts to open wheelers, winning his first championship in the National Midget category in 1994; followed by the U.S. Auto Club's Triple Crown the very next year.

It was in 1997 that Stewart began his NASCAR career racing in both the Indy Racing League and a full Busch schedule with team owner Joe Gibbs.

By 1999, Stewart had taken the Winston Cup Racing Series by storm. That year the Indiana native debuted on the front-row of his first Daytona 500 and went on to score three more victories, more than any rookie driver in Winston Cup history. He also obtained two poles, 12 top-five finishes, and 21 top-10 finishes, snagging 1999 Rookie of the Year.

The hometown crowd was there this past August when Stewart, already a winner on short tracks, super-speedway and road course, capped an emotional day by clinching the Indianapolis Brickyard. And now, Stewart has out-duelled his rivals to take a second Nextel Cup title.

Congratulations, Tony. Just like 2002, you got the job done with consistency and determination that makes Hoosiers proud.

HONORING RETIRING BOSTON
TOWN COUNCILMAN KARL J.
SIMMETH**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a public official whose service as a member of the Boston Town Board has been honorable and whose dedication to his community has been steadfast. Today, I want to honor the service of Councilman Karl Simmeth.

Karl Simmeth served as a member of the Boston Town Board while his town continued to see growth and expansion, as more Western New Yorkers choose to live in towns beyond the first ring of Erie County's suburbs. The town of Boston is well-known as a great place to live and raise a family, and it is so, in no small measure, because of the dedicated service of public officials like Karl.

Karl took his work on the town board very seriously. Karl's areas of expertise included

committees and other town board functions involving street lighting, the town's Conservation Advisory Council, drainage and solid waste, and the oversight of South Boston Park. In short, Karl worked to deal with issues important to local residents.

Karl wears another hat in town, and that hat is political—he is Chairman of the town's Republican committee. Accordingly, when it comes to matters political, Karl and I were rarely on the same side of the fence. However, when it comes to his love for the town of Boston and for his work on its behalf, Karl always checked his politics at the door. His work was always professional and I am grateful to him for his advocacy on the town's behalf.

Mr. Speaker, when all is said and done, a public servant wants to leave government in better shape than when he or she came in; that is certainly the case here. The town of Boston is a better place for Karl Simmeth's service, and I am pleased and appreciative to have had the opportunity to recognize him here today.

CONGRATULATING MS. ANNA
BELLE NEWMAN ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER RETIREMENT**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Ms. Anna Belle Newman on the occasion of her retirement after serving Mobile County for 17 years.

Ms. Newman was elected to the position of general administrator of Mobile County in 1988, and she is currently the longest serving local Republican elected official in Mobile County. A ninth generation Mobilian, Ms. Newman is a graduate of Murphy High School. She attended both the University of Alabama and Spring Hill College.

In the midst of her professional schedule, Ms. Newman also finds time to serve the community. She is an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and the Friends of Mobile. She is a former founding member of the Mobile Art Patrons League and a former member of the Mobile County Republican Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Ms. Newman's colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years on behalf of Mobile County and the First Congressional District.

FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this conference report and thank Mr. OBEY, Ranking Member of Appropriations Committee, for the time.

This morning I greeted hundreds of faith leaders on the steps of the Cannon building. They gathered from across the country to march together and pray together and to deliver a message to Congress. Their message was simple: the budget is a moral document and we have a moral obligation to ensure its priorities reflect our values.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask why aren't we listening to them?

Who better than faith leaders, who serve on the front lines, who feed the hungry, who clothe the naked, who house the homeless, to tell Congress about the impact of this immoral budget on our families and our communities?

They recognize that the priorities reflected in our budget are not a partisan issue, but an issue of who we are as a Nation, and what our values are.

We know that the Republican budget cuts and this conference report, which is a critical part of their budget, is nothing more than an assault on the least among us—and it does not reflect our values.

That is why I encourage my colleagues to vote with their values and let's defeat this bill just like we did a month ago.

Don't tell me we can't do better.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration touches us all, whether you live in a border state, such as Texas, or not. Millions of Americans pass through airports daily. Before they travel city to city or state to state, they have to show a valid i.d., remove their shoes, have their belongings examined, and walk through metal detectors. Meanwhile, thousands of illegal immigrants waltz across our borders, undetected, every day. America's failure to control its borders has cost us billions of dollars, and heightened the possibility of criminal and terrorist activity on our home soil.

It is time to prevent illegal immigration. The first step is taking control at the borders and holding people accountable. We can achieve this by passing legislation such as The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, this country has been enriched by foreigners who respect our laws and become citizens the proper way. We do not wish to deny others this opportunity. However, illegal immigration and disrespect for our laws

cannot be tolerated. We cannot secure this nation without securing its borders.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ALEX HUMEL MCCANN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Alex Humel McCann, cherished son, brother, grandson, cousin, nephew and friend to many, whose unexpected passing has saddened our entire community. Although he will be greatly missed, Alex's young life had a profound impact upon the lives of countless individuals, in Cleveland, Ohio and around the world, and his inner light will shine on forever.

When Alex was in kindergarten, he journeyed with his parents and brothers to Botswana, Africa, to participate in a three-year mission with Habitat for Humanity International. In his 17 young years, Alex traveled to 17 countries and 5 continents. With an open heart, Alex absorbed the colorful offerings of every new culture and developed a profound sensitivity to human injustices and struggles that exist around the world.

An independent thinker and adventurous soul, Alex's passion and joy for life paralleled his passion for helping others. As a student at St. Edward High School, Alex was an active member with the Council on Human Relations, the Free Thought Society and his most cherished activity, the St. Edward Wilderness Retreat Program. His diagnosis of epilepsy at age thirteen did not lessen his enthusiasm and energy for living. He was an avid cyclist, golfer, hiker, and camper. He was a talented young actor who graced the stages of the Beck Center, St. Ed's and St. Joseph Academy. His energy and talent were consistently matched by his unique sense of humor, quick smile and kind heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Alex Humel McCann. I extend my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Joyce Humel and Michael McCann; his brothers, Nick and Aaron; his extended family members and many friends. Alex Humel McCann's young life reflected limitless joy and love and he will live forever in the hearts and memories of those who loved him most—his family and friends—from Cleveland, Ohio to Botswana, Africa, and he will never be forgotten.

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD
TOWN SUPERVISOR MARK
STEFFAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man whose years of service, both as a councilman, and for the last four years as Supervisor of the town of Concord, have served his town admirably. Today, I want to honor retiring Concord Town Supervisor Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan is someone who loved his town with every fiber of his being. A successful businessman, Mark was elected to the Concord Town Board and his recent service as Supervisor has come at a time when more people in Erie County and Western New York look to the town of Concord and its incorporated village of Springville as an outstanding place to live, work and raise a family. It is that way because of the dedicated service of public officials like Mark Steffan.

Mark Steffan and his family are moving on with a planned move out of Western New York. I want to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend Mark Steffan for his service to the residents and the taxpayers of the town of Concord, and remind him that local residents are better for the service he provided to town government.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
VICTOR A. MCSWAIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Victor A. McSwain was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Mr. McSwain began his 44 year career with the city of Mobile in his late teens. After serving in various positions, he worked his way up to the position of traffic engineer—a position he held for 17 years before becoming Mobile's director of transportation. Mr. McSwain worked for the city while obtaining two college degrees—a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in civil engineering from Penn State University.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. McSwain also found time to serve in many community organizations. He served on both the city's Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. McSwain was a past president of the University of South Alabama Alumni Association, the Crichton Optimist Club, and the Order of the Inca, a local Mardi Gras Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Mr. McSwain will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 42 years, Barbara McSwain; his children, Angel Odom and Yvette Jones; and four grandchildren, Justin and Kyle Odom and Kelsey and Melody Jones—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DORA BAKOYANNIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Ath-

ens, Greece, who was chosen to receive the 2005 World Mayor Award. This recognition is part of the World Mayor Project, which aims to bring greater attention to mayors who have well served their own communities as well as other national and international cities.

The World Mayor Project was launched in January of 2004 by City Mayors, an internet based platform designed to raise awareness about issues facing the world's cities. City Mayors was created by a group of economists and journalists from Europe, the Americas and Asia in April of 2003. From January to October of 2005, over 87,000 people worldwide voted in the annual internet based. World Mayor contest.

After being elected in 2003, Mayor Bakoyannis had the great challenge of preparing the historic city of Athens to host the 2004 summer Olympic Games. Due to her outstanding leadership, Athens rose magnificently to the challenge and demonstrated the pride and honor that comes with hosting the biggest sporting event in the world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dora Bakoyannis whose work has not only brought physical transformation to Athens, but also a renewed sense of national pride for her citizens which reflects true leadership. We wish her continued success as she works to enhance the quality of life for all Athenians.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
URGING THE OBSERVANCE OF
GLOBAL FAMILY DAY OF PEACE
AND SHARING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution calling for the observance of Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing.

Everyone in this body is concerned with finding a way to achieve peace. Peace in Iraq, peace in every corner of the world. Many of us have widely divergent views about how to achieve that peace—but I am confident—we all want peace.

We all have families back home who are longing for peace in the world and an end to the suffering caused by poverty, disease and hunger. Our friends, our neighbors, our parents and our children, all are hoping that this holiday season can bring more understanding, more generosity, more genuine friendship and caring among people of all faiths and cultures.

Perhaps we can't agree on military strategies, or budgets. Perhaps we will remain at odds on many matters when we come back after the holiday recess. But there's one matter on which the Congress agreed in 2000 and which I believe a unanimous Congress can agree upon now.

Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a concurrent resolution which calls upon all Americans to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing every January 1st. It asks that we use the first day of every year as a time to reach out to others in the spirit of peace, to share a meal, to help the needy at home and around the world.

This is a matter that once agreed on by Congress, can lead to greater understanding